SCALES OF PAY—LOWER GRADE OFFICERS

143. Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) do Government propose to revise the scales of pay of lower grade officers in the State; if so, at what stage does the consideration stand;

(*b*) do they propose to set up a Pay Commission to go into the entire question of revising the scales of pay?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes. A Committee has been constituted to make suitable proposals for a general revision of pay of all the services in the State.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of the answer to (*a*) above.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam)*: Is it purely an official Committee?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government)*: Yes.

Mr. V.R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam)*: May I know whether it has been constituted already?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government)*: It was published in the last issue of the Gazette.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether there are non-officials?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government)*: No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: On a former occasion I think it was in 1103 when the last pay commission, though not known by that name then, was constituted, did it not contain non-official Members of this House?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government)*: Sir, I may say a word here. The Hon'ble Member is referring to the Special Finance Committee which was appointed 21 years ago. The functions of that committee and the present committee, for one thing, are very differents and for another thing the procedure then adopted was found later and endorsed by this House itself to have been most long and cumbersome and in the end not only was there a delay of 5 to 6 years to pass orders after the committee was constituted, but ultimately it so happened that very few of the recommendations which were made at various stages reached the final stage when the orders were passed. In order to obviate all these things Government thought that this time a small official committee may be appointed to start with and having received from them a skeleton report so to say a committee of this House or this House itself in full stature may consider these proposals at a later stage. We thought that it would be much simplifying the method of doing things, and this House will have certainly an opportunity to say what they want to say about the committee's recommendations before the Government passes final orders. In Travancore, it was one officer who drafted the preliminary report. We thought that it will be much better to have a small committee of 3 or 4 persons rather than entrust this big work to one single officer. Therefore, a small official committee has been constituted and after their report is received, some adequate machinery will be set up on which this House will be able to give its opinion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkanchri)*: May I know, Sir, whether a similar committee in British India does not take in non-officials also among its members?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government)*: When it is a case of emergency measure just as the present case, because there is considerable hardship amongst the lower ranks of servants about their salaries and Government have been receiving several serious complaints and the recent committee that went into the question of services generally thought that if we want an improvement in the tone of the services and also if we should avoid the necessity that is now felt of having to make frequent transfers between the clerks of various departments and if that should be avoided it should be necessary to standardise the pay of the lower grades of service. Therefore it is not a matter which can be left to be dragged on. If something useful should be done it must be done immediately. It is just to expedite matters that this method has been adopted.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, Sir, whether it is the opinion of the Government that in case there are non-official members in the committee the work of the committee will be delayed?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government)*: The House will certainly be consulted after the skeleton report is received. There must be something definite and firm to go about.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether the Government have taken note of the fact that the existence of non-official members in the formulation of the recommendation is better and more useful than their being consulted after it, more or less, becomes an accomplished fact.

Mr. Presdent: Perhaps I might put the thing in rather a different manner. The proposal is that this official committee should do the spade work and put together the material and save non-official members from the drudgery, so to speak, of going through the particulars of each department and putting them out in a form in which they can be easily understood. What we contemplate is that this official committee should do all that drudgery and produce a scheme on which the non-official members of the whole House itself or a committee of the House may express their opinion. It will be easier for the non-official members to study the proposals in that form and they will have ample opportunity to express any opinion they like about it.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Nellayi):* Will the Government be pleased to give the schemes already prepared about two or three weeks before they are actually prepared by this House so that we may have time to study the scheme?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M. B. E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* That can be done. Of course, we have not started the work.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether the Government can assure us that the scheme will be ready when the Council meets next?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* That is our aim.

RAT-PROOF GODOWNS—MATTANCHERI

144. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) when the construction of a rat-proof godown in Mattancheri was commenced by the Government;

(*b*) at what stage is the work now;

(*c*) what amount has thus far been spent;

(*d*) when it is hoped the work will be completed?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) The work was commenced in Karkadagam 1120, soon after the necessary lands were acquired.

(*b*) The masonry work is nearly completed and the roof work will be begun in Chingam 1122.

(*c*) L. A. charges Rs. 2,20,396—2—0. Works—Rs. 37,324—14—11 up to Edavam 1121.

(*d*) The work is expected to be completed by Makaram 1122.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know Sir, when the construction of rat-proof godowns for mattanchery was contemplated and put into action by the Government?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The necessity of properly constructed godowns was felt for the storage of foodgrains. Food grains are being spoiled by impoper storage. So the Government thought it necessary to construct a rat-proof ideal godown for storing foodgrains and also to show to the public the method by which proper godowns have to be constructed.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know Sir, what was the amount sanctioned by the House for this item of work?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The estimated cost of the work comes to Rs. 2,16,000. The land acquisition charges come to Rs. 2,20,000.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Was the work, Sir, undertaken in connection with the present food crisis?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, why this has been dragging on like this because the purpose for which it is intended is likely to be over in the near future? We are praying for it.

Mr. President: I am afraid not,

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether this godown after Government use will be disposed of or whether we can get a return for the expenditure incurred?

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